

# PAR

PARAMETER. *n. f.* The latus rectum of a parabola, is a third proportional to the abscissa and any ordinate; so that the square of the ordinate is always equal to the rectangle under the parameter and abscissa; but, in the ellipse and hyperbola, it has a different proportion. *Harris.*

PARAMOUNT. *adj.* [*par* and *mount*.]  
1. Superiour; having the highest jurisdiction; as lord paramount, the chief of the feignory.

Leagues within the state are ever pernicious to monarchies; for they raise an obligation, paramount to obligation of feignity, and make the king, tanquam unus ex nobis. *Bacon.*

The dogmatist's opinioned assurance is paramount to argument. *Glanville.*

If all power be derived from Adam, by divine institution, this is a right antecedent and paramount to all government; and therefore the positive laws of men cannot determine that which is itself the foundation of all law. *Locke.*

Mankind, seeing the apostles possessed of a power plainly paramount to the powers of all the known beings, whether angels or demons, could not question their being inspired by God. *West on the Resurrection.*

2. Eminent; of the highest order.  
John a Chamber was hanged upon a gibbet raised a stage higher in the midst of a square gallows, as a traitor paramount; and a number of his chief accomplices were hanged upon the lower story round him. *Bacon.*

PARAMOUNT. *n. f.* The chief.  
In order came the grand infernal peers,  
'Midst came their mighty paramount. *Milton's P. L.*

PARAMOUR. *n. f.* [*par* and *amour*, Fr.]  
1. A lover or wooer.

Upon the floor  
A lovely bevy of fair ladies sat,  
Court'd of many a jolly paramour,  
The which them did in modestly amate,  
And each one fought his lady to aggrate. *Fa. Queen.*

No season then for her  
To wanton with the sun her lusty paramour. *Milt.*

2. A mistress. It is obsolete in both senses, though not inelegant or unmusical.

Shall I believe  
That unsubstantial death is amorous,  
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps  
Thee here in dark to be his paramour. *Shakespeare.*

PARAMYPH. *n. f.* [*παράμυθος*, Fr.]  
1. A bride-man; one who leads the bride to her marriage.

The Timian bride  
Had not so soon prefer'd  
Thy paramorph, worthless to thee compar'd,  
Succor in thy bed. *Milton's Agonistes.*

2. One who countenances or supports another.  
Sin hath got a paramorph and a solicitor, a warrant and an advocate. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

PARAPHEM. *n. f.* [*παράφημα*, Fr.] A brazen table fixed to a pillar, on which laws and proclamations were anciently engraved: also a table set up publicly, containing an account of the rising and setting of the stars, eclipses of the sun and moon, the seasons of the year, &c. whence astrologers give this name to the tables, on which they draw figures according to their art. *Philips.*

Our forefathers, observing the course of the sun, and marking certain mutations to happen in his progress through the zodiac, set them down in their parapheims, or astronomical canons.

PARAPET. *n. f.* [*parapet*, Fr. *parapetto*, Italian.] A wall breast high.

There was a wall or parapet of teeth set in our mouth to restrain the petulance of our words. *Ben Jonson.*

PARAPHIMOSIS. *n. f.* [*παράφωσις*, Fr.] A disease when the preputium cannot be drawn over the glans.

PARAPHERNALIA. *n. f.* [*Lat. paraphernalia*, Fr.] Goods in the wife's disposal.

PARAPHRASE. *n. f.* [*παράφρασις*, Fr.] A loose interpretation; an explanation in many words.

All the laws of nations were but a paraphrase upon this standing rectitude of nature, that was ready to enlarge itself into suitable determinations, upon all emergent objects and occasions. *South's Sermons.*

In paraphrase, or translation with latitude, the author's words are not so strictly followed as his sense, and that too amplified, but not altered: such is Mr. Waller's translation of Virgil's fourth Æneid. *Dryden.*

TO PARAPHRASE. *v. a.* [*paraphrase*, Fr. *παράφραζε*.] To interpret with laxity of expression; to translate loosely.

We are put to confute and paraphrase our own words, to free ourselves from the ignorance and malice of our adversaries. *Stillington's Disc. of Div. on Remiss. Idolatry.*

What needs he paraphrase on what we mean. *Dryden.*

We were at work but wanton; he's obscene. *Dryden.*

Where translation is impracticable, they may paraphrase. — But it is intolerable, that under a pretence of paraphrasing

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and translating, a way should be suffered of treating authors to a manifest disadvantage. *Felton on the Classics.*

PARAPHRASE. *n. f.* [*paraphrase*, Fr. *παράφρασις*.] A lax interpreter; one who explains in many words.

The fittest for public audience are such, as following a middle course between the rigor of literal translators and the liberty of paraphrasts, do, with great shortness and plainness, deliver the meaning. *Hooker.*

The chaldean paraphrast renders Gerah by Meath. *Arbuth.*

PARAPHRASICAL. *adj.* [*from paraphrase*.] Lax in interpretation; not literal; not verbal.

PARAPHRASIS. *n. f.* [*παράφρασις*, Fr.] A holding or occupying of land by more persons pro indiviso, or by joint tenants, otherwise called coparceners; for if they refuse to divide their common inheritance, and chuse rather to hold it jointly, they are said to hold in parcenary. *Cowel.*

TO PARCENARY. *v. a.* [*from parcenary*, Fr.] A holding or occupying of land by more persons pro indiviso, or by joint tenants, otherwise called coparceners; for if they refuse to divide their common inheritance, and chuse rather to hold it jointly, they are said to hold in parcenary. *Cowel.*

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5. Any number or quantity in contempt.  
They came to this conclusion; that, unless they could, by a parcel of fair words and pretences, engage them into a confederacy, there was no good to be done. *L'Estrange.*

TO PARCEL. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.]  
1. To divide into portions.

If they allot and parcel out several perfections to several deities, do they not, by this, assert contradictions, making deity only to such a measure perfect; whereas a deity implies perfection beyond all measure. *South's Sermons.*

Those ghostly kings would parcel out my pow'r,  
And all the fatness of my land devour. *Dryden.*

2. To make up into a mass.  
What a wounding shame,  
That mine own servant should  
Parcel the sum of my disgraces by  
Addition of his envy! *Shakespeare.*

PARCER. *n. f.* [*In common law*.] When one dies possessed of an estate, and having issue only daughters, or his sisters be his heirs; so that the lands descend to those daughters or sisters: these are called parceners, and are but as one heir. *Dist.*

PARCERNY. *n. f.* [*from parcenary*, French.] A holding or occupying of land by more persons pro indiviso, or by joint tenants, otherwise called coparceners; for if they refuse to divide their common inheritance, and chuse rather to hold it jointly, they are said to hold in parcenary. *Cowel.*

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2. Forgiveness of a crime; indulgence.  
He that pleases great men, shall get pardon for iniquity. *Ecclus. xx. 27.*

A slight pamphlet, about the elements of architecture, hath been entertained with some pardon among my friends. *Wotton.*

3. Forgiveness received.  
A man may be safe as to his condition, but, in the mean time, dark and doubtful as to his apprehensions; secure in his pardon, but miserable in the ignorance of it; and so passing all his days in the disconsolate, uneasy vicissitudes of hopes and fears, at length go out of the world, not knowing whither he goes. *South's Sermons.*

5. Warrant of forgiveness, or exemption from punishment.  
The battle done, and they within our power,  
Shall never see his pardon. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

PARDONABLE. *adj.* [*from pardonable*, Fr. from *pardon*.] Venial; excusable.

That which we do being evil, is notwithstanding by so much more pardonable, by how much the exigencies of so doing, or the difficulty of doing otherwise is greater, unless this necessity or difficulty have originally risen from ourselves. *Hooker.*

A blind man sitting in the chimney corner is pardonable enough, but sitting at the helm, he is intolerable. *South.*

What English readers, unacquainted with Greek or Latin, will believe me, when we confess we derive all that is pardonable in us from ancient fountains. *Dryden.*

PARDONABLENESS. *n. f.* [*from pardonable*.] Venialness; susceptibility of pardon.

Saint John's word is, all sin is transgression of the law; Saint Paul's, the wages of sin is death: put these two together, and this conceit of the natural pardonableness of sin vanishes away. *Hall.*

PARDONABLY. *adv.* [*from pardonable*.] Venially; excusably.  
I may judge when I write more or less pardonably. *Dryden.*

PARDONER. *n. f.* [*from pardon*.]  
1. One who forgives another.

This is his pardon, purchas'd by such sin,  
For which the pardoner himself is in. *Shakespeare.*

2. Fellows that carried about the pope's indulgencies, and sold them to such as would buy them, against whom Luther incensed the people of Germany. *Cowel.*

TO PARER. *v. a.* [*This word is reasonably deduced by Skinner from the French phrase, parer les ongles, to dress the horses' hoofs when they are shaved by the farrier: thus we first said, pare your nails; and from thence transferred the word to general use.*] To cut off extremities or the surface; to cut away by little and little; to diminish.

The creed of Athanasius, and that sacred hymn of glory, than which nothing doth sound more heavenly in the ears of faithful men, are now reckoned as superfluities, which we must in any case pare away, lest we cloy God with too much service. *Hooker.*

I have not alone  
Employ'd you where high profits might come home;  
But par'd my present havings to bestow  
My bounties upon you. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

I am a man, whom fortune hath cruelly scratch'd.  
— 'Tis too late to pare her nails now. *Shakespeare.*

The lion, mov'd with pity, did endure  
To have his princely paws all par'd away. *Shakespeare.*

The king began to pare a little the privilege of clergy, or daining that clerks convict, should be buried in the hand. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Pick out of tales the mirth, but not the sin.  
He pares his apple, that will cleanly feed. *Herbert.*

Whoever will partake of God's secrets, must first look into his own, he must pare off whatsoever is amiss, and not without holiness approach to the holiest of all holies. *Taylor.*

All the mountains were pared off the earth, and the surface of it lay even, or in an equal convexity every where with the surface of the sea. *Burnet.*

The most poetical parts, which are description and images, were to be pared away, when the body was swollen into too large a bulk for the representation of the stage. *Dryden.*

The sword, as it was justly drawn by us, so can it scarce safely be sheathed, till the power of the great troubler of our peace be far par'd and reduced, as that we may be under no apprehensions. *Asterbury.*

'Twere well if he would pare her nails.  
Pope.

PARAGORICK. *adj.* [*παράγορικός*.] Having the power in medicine to comfort, mollify and allunge. *Dist.*

PARENCHYMA. *n. f.* [*παράχυμα*.] A spongy or porous substance; in physick, a part through which the blood is strained for its better fermentation and perfection. *Dist.*

PARENCHYMATOUS. *adj.* [*from parenchyma*.] Relating to PARENCHYMOUS. } the parenchyma; spongy.

Ten thousand seeds of the plant, hart's-tongue, hardly make the bulk of a pepper corn. Now the covers and true body of each seed, the parenchymatous and ligneous parts of both moderately multiplied, afford an hundred thousand millions of formed atoms in the space of a pepper corn. *Grew.*

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